



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
LISBON • PORTUGAL

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

November 2011 | [Clique aqui para a Versão Portuguesa](#)

From the Ambassador's Desk | [A Bi-Monthly Update from the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon](#)



MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KATZ

President Barack Obama hosted President Aníbal Cavaco Silva of Portugal at a meeting in the White House on Wednesday, November 9th. This was an opportunity for President Obama to reciprocate the warm hospitality he received during his visit to Lisbon in November 2010. A wide range of issues was discussed, including U.S.-Portugal partnership in NATO and cooperation in the United Nations Security Council, where Portugal currently serves as Council President. The two Presidents also talked about the revitalized U.S.-Portugal Bilateral Commission, U.S. support for Portugal's implementation of its IMF-EU reform program, and the full range of bilateral ties. As always, we welcome your [comments](#).



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NATO SUMMIT 2012

Planning is underway for the next NATO Summit to be held in Chicago on May 20-21, 2012. This will be the first NATO gathering since the successful Lisbon Summit in November 2010. The U.S. and Portugal are both founding members of NATO. Although the Cold War is long over, NATO continues to play an essential role in international security while cooperation in recent years between NATO and non-Allied partners around the world has intensified. Two examples are: Libya, where NATO worked with non-NATO contributors to protect civilians, enforce an arms embargo, and maintain a no-fly zone; and Afghanistan, where the U.S., Portugal, and NATO allies work with other nations to enforce a UN Security Council mandate to provide security against terrorism and to contribute to a better future for the Afghan people. In the lead-up to the Chicago Summit, a number of events will take place, including a March 2012 conference in Bratislava for young leaders in Europe and Canada who are interested in NATO issues.

[Learn more about NATO](#)



NATO Secretary General Anders Rasmussen greets President Obama at the NATO Summit in Lisbon on November 19, 2010.

THE WAY FORWARD IN AFGHANISTAN

In October 2011, Secretary Clinton returned to Afghanistan to meet with President Karzai. During her visit she emphasized four important goals for the country: First, to achieve a stable, sovereign, independent, and prosperous Afghanistan and a region free of al-Qaida and extremists who would try to undermine the progress that Afghans have made; second, the U.S. commitment to an inclusive peace process that ends the conflict, protects the gains the Afghan people have achieved, and helps bring greater stability and prosperity to the wider region; third, to secure commitments from neighboring countries to respect Afghan sovereignty and territorial integrity and to support the peace process; and finally, to emphasize that all of this work advances the plan for full transition to Afghan-led security by 2014 as agreed upon at the NATO Summit in Lisbon. This process has already begun and we are identifying the next group of districts that will be ready to be handed over to the Afghans.

[Learn more about Secretary Clinton visit to Afghanistan](#)



Secretary Clinton met and exchanged views with civil society leaders.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE EMBASSY

WHAT IS AMERICA TODAY?

A series of conferences entitled “What is America Today?”, sponsored by the Luso-American Foundation and Porto’s Casa da Música, is taking place in Porto from September 29 to December 15. The ten sessions cover many aspects of contemporary U.S. culture and what it means to be an American. In each, key concepts associated with the United States, such as liberty, tolerance, innovation, and diversity, are debated by Portuguese and American artists, writers and opinion-makers with ample time devoted to audience questions and comments. The last session on December 15 will feature former President Jorge Sampaio and Ambassador Allan Katz exchanging views on the overall series topic, moderated by journalist Bárbara Reis.

[Learn more about the conferences](#)



Cycle of Conferences “What is America Today?”

THANKSGIVING AT THE EMBASSY

Starting on November 10 and continuing through the month, the U.S. Embassy will challenge 10-12th grade Portuguese students on Facebook to answer questions about Thanksgiving, one of America’s most celebrated traditions, which takes place this year on November 24th. The first four schools that correctly answer all the questions will have the opportunity to send a group of students to the Embassy and share an afternoon of briefings and presentations by U.S. diplomats and staff about Thanksgiving – and other topics, too. The fun would not be complete without sampling some food treats typical of our commemorative day.

[Visit our Facebook for more details](#)



Thanksgiving recipes